

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SURGEON

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CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 34

TREATMENT OF RABIES

1. It is recommended that all persons bitten by animals be treated with anti-rabies vaccine as follows:

a. The bites of dogs, cats, monkeys and other animal pets, if superficial and not extensive, should be cauterized with fuming nitric acid as soon as possible. The 14 day Semple Anti-rabies Vaccine Treatment should be started immediately in cases of bites on the face and neck. Treatment should be instituted only if clinical symptoms of rabies develop in the animal while it is in quarantine in the case of bites located elsewhere than the face and neck. Treatment should be given in all cases where the animal cannot be located.

b. Treatment should be intensified in cases of bites on the face and neck when several days have elapsed from the time of the bite until a positive diagnosis is made on the animal. Treatment should likewise be intensified in the case of bites on the extremities where 10 days have elapsed between the bite and the receipt of the report of diagnosis.

c. Intensified treatment should be given as follows: (One dose is equivalent to one vial of standard Semple Anti-rabic Vaccine).

1st day 2 doses, one - AM one - PM

2nd day 1 dose, AM

3rd day 2 doses, one - AM one - PM

4th day 1 dose, AM

5th day 2 doses, one - AM one - PM

6th day 1 dose

The treatment should be continued one dose per day until the complete course of injections has been administered.

ARMY d. Treatment need not be given in cases where 14 days or more

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have elapsed between the time of the bite and first manifestation or clinical symptoms in the animal. Treatment should be discontinued if the quarantined animal, after observation for a period of 14 days, has not developed clinical symptoms or rabies. In all cases every effort should be made to locate and quarantine the animal. Attempts to locate the animal should continue although treatment has been instituted.

2. The injections are not entirely without danger and the indiscriminate injection of rabies vaccine should be discouraged.

Perce D. Robinson
Col. M. G.
for and in the absence of
GUY B. DENIT
Brigadier General, USA
Chief Surgeon

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By mail to all surgeons and units concerned with the care of patients.